



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Meeting Minutes 02/04/2008

ARLINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE
 MINUTES OF MEETING
 7:30 PM O'NEILL ROOM COMMUNITY SAFETY BUILDING
 2/4/08

ATTENDEES:

| | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|----------|---------|----------|
| McGaffigan* | | Dunn* | Phelps* | Mahoney |
| DeCoursey | Connors | Simmons* | Bayer* | |
| Tosti* | Foskett* | Deyst* | Ronan | |
| Ferrara | Franclemont* | Jones* | Olsen* | |
| DuBois* | Howard* | Fanning* | Carman* | Turkall* |

* Indicates present

VISITORS: Retirement Board members: John Bilafer, Chair, Joe Rosselli, Rich Greco, Administrator;
 Jeanne Leary, Gordon Jamieson

MINUTES of 1/28/08 accepted as printed. Unanimous.

GENERAL: Olsen reported that the snow budget has been exceeded by \$125k. A second, reorganized Warrant draft was distributed (Numbering below follows this draft). An agenda for meetings running through March was provided by Turkall. See info under Committee below.

CONTRIBUTORY RETIREMENT BOARD (CRB) ARTICLES

ART 39 INCREASE IN ACCIDENTAL DEATH BENEFITS: Bilafer, Rosselli & Greco explained this article. This article concerns employees who retire with a disability pension and die from that disability. Their children under 18, or if in college, under 22, would receive an annual benefit for each child. This figure is adjusted w/a COLA each year by the State, is currently \$648. When accepted by Town Meeting in 2002 the benefit was \$312. The COLA aspect of the law was not clear at the time the Town Meeting voted, but the CRB awarded it anyway. Acceptance of this article, required by PERAC, would legalize that action. Greco requested to provide a comment for the FinCom report.

VOTED favorable action. Unanimous.

ART 40 HOME RULE LEGISLATION TO EXTEND BENEFITS: Rosselli explained that Town employees who are qualified veterans (wartime service) and retire on a disability receive an annual benefit of \$15/ year of employment up to 20 years in addition to their pension from the pension fund. Rosselli's intention is that this legislation would allow their widows to receive the benefit. The article says their estate would receive the benefit. Greco estimates the cost at \$100k.

VOTED no action because the benefits should not be retroactive. Unanimous. Dunn to write comment for FinCom report.

ART 41 PENSION ADJUSTMENTS: This is the annual article authorizing COLAs that would maintain a retiree's pension at least 50% of the salary of the position from which he/she retired. Turkall to use last year's comment in the FinCom report.

VOTED favorable action. Unanimous.

ART 42 TRANSFER AND APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR OPEB: Bilafer stated that the home rule legislation establishing a irrevocable trust to fund retiree health care costs requires that CRB manage the fund. The fund must be irrevocable to meet GASB standards and count against the OPEB liability on the Town's balance sheet. He believes that actuary work and the management of this fund is similar to management of the pension fund although, unlike pensions, the teachers would be covered. So far no employee money is involved except a third of the 15% payment that retirees make for health care. Bilafer would be willing to provide an annual report to the Town.

VOTED to table until the report that Foskett requested from Maher on the home rule legislation is available. Unanimous. Also the

committee wishes to hear the Treasurer's views on this matter.

ART 15 BYLAW AMENDMENT NOTICES OF MEETINGS & MINUTES: Leary explained her difficulty in finding out when Town boards and commissions plan to discuss matters affecting her neighborhood and what actions had been taken. The language would require much broader notification of affected residents than is current practice. Members expressed their concern with the practical difficulties of determining who might be affected, and the possibility of challenges to action on the basis of non-notification. Also members thought Leary's suggestion to use the assessor's records to determine who to notify would entail new expense. Tabled. Tosti to discuss w/ BoS.

COMMITTEE: Next mtg 2/6 Jamieson's articles: Services to Non-profits, Tip Fund Monies, Medicare Part D Reimbursement, SPED Budgets.

On 2/11 Treasurer on Pension Obligation Bonds, Borrowing for OPEB.

On 2/13 Assessor on Revaluation. On 2/20 TAC, On 2/25 Harrington Sidewalks School Routes.

On 2/27 Town Manager on Town Budgets.

On 3/3 Capital Planning Committee on Capital Budget.

On 3/5 Moderator on Warrant timing.

On 3/10 Permanent Town Building Committee on Thompson School.

RESERVE FUND BALANCE: \$276,706.28

Peter B Howard Secretary 2/6/08

cc FinCom Members, Selectmen, Town Manager, Comptroller, Library File, Town Web Site FinCom Web Site

VOTE SUMMARY – Articles

| # 1/28 | # 2/4 | Title | Date Heard | Date Voted | Status (Unlisted votes were unanimous) |
|-----------|-------|-----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|--|
| 18 | 5 | Bylaw Amend 1,1,2, Open Warrant | | | |
| 27 | 7 | Bylaw Amend Afford House Trust | | | Foskett to study |
| 20 | 14 | Bylaw Amend Snow Removal | | | |
| 21 | 15 | Bylaw Amend 1,18 Mtg Notices | 2/4 | | Tabled Tosti to discuss w/ BoS |
| 63 | 39 | Increase Accidental Death Benefit | 2/4 | 2/4 | Favorable action |
| 64 | 40 | Extend Benefits | 2/4 | 2/4 | No Action Dunn to write comment |
| 62 | 41 | Pension Adjustments | 2/4 | 2/4 | Favorable action |
| 65 | 42 | Transfer OPEB Funds | 2/4 | 2/4 | Tabled. Report from Maher, Treasurer hearing |
| 66 | 43 | Transfer OPEB Funds | | | ACRB |
| 68 | 44 | Borrowing for OPEB | | | |
| 67 | 45 | Pension Obligation Funds | | | |
| 45 | 47 | Positions reclassification | | | Phelps to present |
| 43 | 48 | Collective Bargaining | | | |
| 44 | 49 | Future Collective Bargaining | | | |
| 46 | 51 | Budgets | | | |
| 47 | 52 | Capital Budget | | | Hearing 3/3 8:00 |
| 55 | 55 | Sewers | | | |
| 56 | 56 | Water | | | |
| 48 | 57 | Rescind authority to borrow | | | |
| 48 | 57 | Rescind Authority to Borrow | | | |
| 50 | 58 | Minuteman Tech | | | DeCoursey to schedule |
| 51 | 59 | Town Celebrations | | | Tw n Man |
| 53 | 60 | Committees & Commissions | | | hearing if last year approp not OK |
| 52 | 62 | Miscellaneous | | | Tw n Man |
| 28 | 63 | Town Water Bodies | | | Hearing in mid-March |
| 70 | 64 | Harry Barber Service Program | | | hearing if last year approp not OK |
| 71 | 65 | Revaluation | | | |
| 69 | 66 | Local Option Taxes | | | |

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|----|----|-------------------------------|--|--|--|
| 72 | 67 | Tip Fee Stab Fund | | | |
| 58 | 68 | Tip Fund Money Appropriation | | | |
| 73 | 69 | Cemetery | | | |
| 74 | 70 | Overlay Reserve Surplus | | | |
| 75 | 71 | Stabilization Fund | | | |
| 76 | 72 | Free Cash | | | |
| 59 | 73 | Medicare Part D Reimbursement | | | |
| 57 | 75 | Services to Non-Profits | | | |
| 60 | 76 | SPED | | | |

VOTE SUMMARY-Budgets

| # | Title | Date Heard | Date Voted | Amount | Vote Unlisted votes were unanimous |
|-----|-------------------------|------------|------------|--------|---|
| 1 | FinCom | | | | |
| 2 | Board of Selectmen | | | | |
| 3 | Town Manager | | | | |
| 4 | Personnel | | | | |
| 5 | Comptroller | | | | |
| 6 | Treasurer | | | | |
| 7 | Postage | | | | |
| 8 | Assessors | | | | |
| | Information Technology | | | | |
| 9 | Legal | | | | |
| 10 | Town Clerk | | | | |
| 11 | Registrar of Voters | | | | |
| 12 | Parking | | | | |
| 13 | Planning | | | | |
| 14 | Redevelopment Board | | | | |
| 15 | Zoning Board of Appeals | | | | |
| 16 | Public Works | | | | |
| 17a | Community Safety Admin | | | | |
| 17b | Police | | | | |
| 17c | Fire | | | | |
| 17d | Support | | | | |
| 18 | Inspections | | | | |
| 19 | Education | | | | |
| 20 | Library | | | | |
| 21a | Health & Human Services | | | | |
| 21b | Veterans | | | | |
| 21c | COA | | | | |
| 22 | Retirement | | | | |
| 23 | Insurance | | | | |
| 24 | Street Lighting | | | | |
| 25 | Reserve Fund | | | | |
| W&S | | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|-------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Rec | | | | | |
| Rnk | | | | | |
| COA | | | | | |
| Youth | | | | | |